

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

*Please amend the claims as follows:*

1. (Currently amended) An electrically conductive paste to be sintered comprising main components including a metal powder, a glass frit, and an organic vehicle, wherein the metal powder comprises spherical particles (A) having an average primary-particle diameter of 0.1 to 1  $\mu\text{m}$  and spherical particles (B) having an average primary-particle diameter of 50 nm or less, and the content of spherical particles (A) is in the range of 50 to 99 wt % and the content of spherical particles (B) is in the range of 1 to 50 wt % relative to the total amount of metal particles;

the content of the glass frit is in the range of 0.1 wt % to 15 wt % to the total amount of the glass frit and the metal powder;

the electrically conductive paste exhibits a volume resistivity of 3  $\mu\Omega\cdot\text{cm}$  or less at a sintering temperature of 500  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; and

the organic vehicle contains a cellulose resin or an acrylic resin.

2. (Original) An electrically conductive paste according to claim 1, wherein the content of the glass frit is 0.1 wt % or more and less than 1 wt % relative to the total amount of the glass frit and the metal powder.

3. (Original) An electrically conductive paste according to claim 1, wherein the content of the glass frit ranges from 1 wt % to 15 wt % to the total amount of the glass frit and the metal powder.

4. (Previously presented) An electrically conductive paste according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the metal powder is composed of the spherical particles (A) of 90 to 97 wt % and the spherical particles (B) of 3 to 10 wt % relative to the total amount of metal particles.

5. (Previously presented) An electrically conductive paste according to claim 1, wherein the metal powder is at least one metal or an alloy selected from the group consisting of platinum, gold, silver, copper, nickel, and palladium.

6. (Previously presented) An electrically conductive paste according to claim 1, wherein the glass frit does not contain lead.

7. (Previously presented) An electrically conductive paste according to claim 1, wherein the working point of the glass frit is 500° C or less.

8. (Previously presented) An electrically conductive paste according to claim 7, wherein the working point of the glass frit is 450° C or less.

9. (Previously presented) An electrically conductive paste according to claim 1, wherein the glass frit is a powder having an average particle diameter of 2  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.